REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the Office Action mailed on October 29, 2008.

Claims 18 and 23-45 are currently pending in this application, with claims 18, 23, 34 and 45 being independent.

No new matter has been added.

Reexamination in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

New non-final Office Action

At least for the following reasons, if the allowance of the claims is not forthcoming at the very least and a new ground of rejection made, then a ***new non-final Office Action*** is respectfully requested.

Claim objections

Paragraph 3 of the Office Action indicates an objection of claims 23, 34, and 45.

This objection is traversed at least for the following reasons.

While not conceding the propriety of this rejection and in order to advance the prosecution of the above-identified application, claims 23, 34, and 45 have been amended.

Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 35 U.S.C. §103

Paragraph 5 of the Office Action indicates a rejection of claims 23-30, 32-41, and 43-45 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,009,236 (Mishima).

This rejection is traversed at least for the following reasons.

Claims 23-30 and 32-33 - Claims 24-30 and 32-33 are dependent upon claim 23. Claim 23 is drawn to a reproducing device adapted to play back video data recorded on an information recording medium, the reproducing device comprising:

> a controller adapted to set a reproduction speed of the video data, said reproduction speed during a high-speed playback being higher than said reproduction speed during a normal playback;
>
> a drive adapted to read out said video data from the information recording medium, said video data including main track data being read out during said normal playback and low resolution data being read out during said high-speed playback; and
>
> a decoder adapted to generate an output image from said video data, said output image being viewable on a screen,
>
> wherein said screen is divisible into a number of areas, said number during said high-speed playback being variable in accordance with said reproduction speed.

Claims 34-41 and 43-44 - Claims 34-41 and 43-44 are dependent upon claim 33. Claim 34 is drawn a reproducing method for playing back video data recorded on an information recording medium, the method comprising the steps of:

> setting a reproduction speed of the video data, said reproduction speed during a high-speed playback being higher than said reproduction speed during a normal playback;

reading out said video data from the information recording medium, said video data including main track data being read out during said normal playback and low resolution data being read out during said high-speed playback; and

dividing a screen into a number of areas during said high-speed playback, said number being variable in accordance with said reproduction speed,

wherein an output image from said video data is viewable on said screen.

Claim 45 - Claim 45 is drawn to a recording medium on which a program readable by a computer is recorded, the program being for playing back video data recorded on an information recording medium, the program comprising the steps of:

setting a reproduction speed of the video data, said reproduction speed during a high-speed playback being higher than said reproduction speed during a normal playback;

reading out said video data from the information recording medium, said video data including main track data being read out during said normal playback and low resolution data being read out during said high-speed playback; and

dividing a screen into a number of areas during said high-speed playback, said number being variable in accordance with said reproduction speed,

wherein an output image from said video data is viewable on said screen.

United States Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0002645, the publication document for the present application, provides at paragraph [0141]:

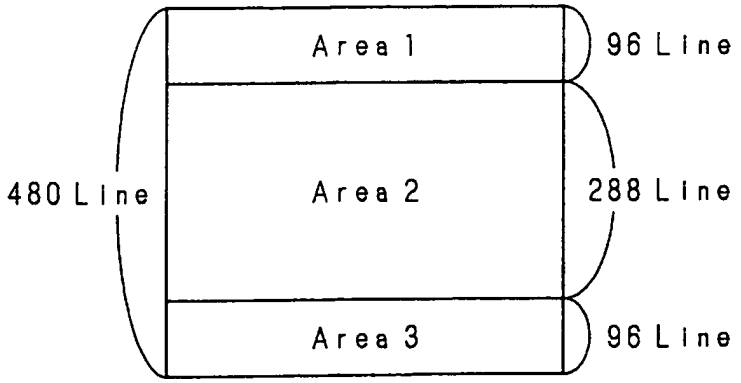
[0141] The high-speed playback will be more specifically described. If high-speed playback (for example, 8-x speed playback (8-x speed reproduction)) is directed in a state of normal playback where the main track data is displayed on a screen, the reproduction speed gradually changes from single speed to 8-x speed. When the

reproduction speed reaches *double speed*, for example, the screen is horizontally divided in two. ***Two different frames*** *of the low resolution data are partially displayed* in the respective two areas obtained by the division. Similarly, for example, when the reproduction speed reaches *triple speed*, the screen is horizontally divided in three. ***Three different frames*** *of the low resolution data partially are displayed* in the respective three areas obtained by the division. When the reproduction speed ultimately reaches *8-x speed*, the screen is horizontally divided into eight. ***Eight different frames*** *of the low resolution data are partially displayed* in the respective eight areas obtained by the division.

Mishima - The Office Action contends that Mishima discloses a device wherein said screen is divisible into a number of areas (Col 37, lines 44-47 "the P4 picture is played back in the area 1, the P3 picture is played back in the area 2, the P2 picture is played back in the area 3, and the P1 picture is played back in the area 4 and the I picture in the area 5"), said number during said high-speed playback being variable in accordance with said reproduction speed (Col 29, lines 45-55) (Office Action at page 4).

In response, Figure 18 of Mishima is provided hereinbelow.

FIG. 18



Mishima arguably discloses that here, the ***three divided areas*** are set as areas 1, 2 and 3 from the top of the screen as shown in FIG. 18 (Mishima at column 28, lines 26-27).

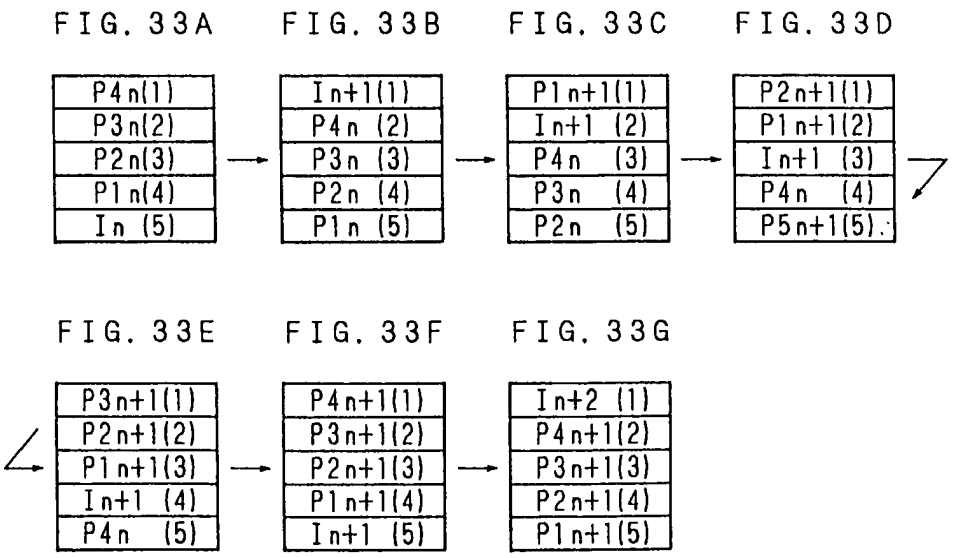
Consequently, when the high speed playback speed is increased, after only the data of the area 2 located at the central part of the screen is read the optical head jumps to the front of the subsequent GOP so that only the data in the area 2 that can be read is inputted to the buffer memory 22 (Mishima at column 29, lines 45-49).

In this case, the format decoder 23 decodes only the area 2 of the I picture that can be read. On the other hand, the areas 1 and 3 whose data are not read are masked by the gray data, and a high speed playback picture is outputted (Mishima at column 29, lines 49-53).

Consequently, in the case where one GOP is set 1o 15 frames, a 15 times speed special playback picture can be obtained (Mishima at column 29, lines 53-55).

However, Figure 18 of Mishima ***fails*** to disclose, teach, or suggest the number of areas being variable in accordance with the reproduction speed.

Figure 33 of Mishima is provided hereinbelow.



In this case, the format encoder 23 synthesizes one screen by playing back areas one by one from ***continuous five frames*** as shown in FIG. 33 (Mishima at column 37, lines 39-41).

In FIG. 33A, a playback picture of one screen portion is synthesized from the I picture, the P1 through P4 pictures (Mishima at column 37, lines 41-43).

Further, in FIG. 33A, the P4 picture is played back in the area 1, the P3 picture is played back in the area 2, the P2 picture is played back in the area 3, and the P1 picture is played back in the area 4 and the I picture in the area 5 (Mishima at column 37, lines 44-47).

Further, in FIG. 33, the area 5 is noted with the passage of time (Mishima at column 37, lines 48-49).

The played back video data includes the I picture of the nth GOP, the P1, P2, P3 and P4, and the I picture of the n+1th GOP picture, and the P1 picture (Mishima at column 37, lines 49-51).

However, Figure 33 of Mishima ***fails*** to disclose, teach, or suggest the number of areas being variable in accordance with the reproduction speed.

- ***Thus, Mishima fails to disclose, teach, or suggest features and steps of dividing a screen into a number of areas during high-speed playback, wherein the number are variable in accordance with a reproduction speed.***

Withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Paragraph 7 of the Office Action indicates a rejection of claims 18, 31 and 42 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,009,236 (Mishima).

This rejection is traversed at least for the following reasons.

Claim 18 - Claim 18 is drawn to a reproducing device adapted to play back video data recorded on an information recording medium, the reproducing device comprising:

a controller adapted to set reproduction speeds of the video data, said reproduction speeds including a normal playback and a high-speed playback, said high-speed playback being at a higher speed than said normal playback;

a drive adapted to read out said video data from the information recording medium, said video data including main track data being read out during said normal playback and low resolution data being read out during said high-speed playback; and

a decoder adapted to generate an output image from said video data, said output image being viewable on a screen,

wherein, during said normal playback, said screen displays a frame of said main track data,

wherein, during said high-speed playback, said screen is divided into areas, said areas of said screen partially displaying different frames of said low resolution data, and

wherein, at a transition from said high-speed playback to said normal playback, an acceleration in accordance with time required to read out and decode said main track data is calculated so as to perform deceleration at a deceleration corresponding to said calculated acceleration.

Claim 31 - Claim 31 is drawn to the reproducing device according to claim 23, wherein, at a transition from said high-speed playback to said normal playback, an acceleration in accordance with time required to read out and decode said main track data is calculated so as to perform deceleration at a deceleration corresponding to said calculated acceleration.

Claim 42 - Claim 42 is drawn to the method according to claim 34, further comprising:

> calculating an acceleration in accordance with time required to read out and decode said main track data, said acceleration being calculated at a transition from said high-speed playback to said normal playback; and
>
> performing deceleration at a deceleration corresponding to said calculated acceleration.

Mishima - Figure 6 of Mishima shows an outline of the inter-frame prediction coding. Pictures are divided into three types, namely an intra-frame coded picture (hereinafter referred to as an ***I picture***), a one direction prediction coded picture (hereinafter referred to as a ***P picture***), and a both direction prediction coded picture (hereinafter referred to as a ***B picture***) (Mishima at column 3, lines 10-17).

In the case where the coding structure shown in FIG. 6 is provided, the ***high speed playback*** of the picture can be performed when the data is played back in the unit of the I picture (Mishima at column 6, lines 58-63).

In this case, the format decoder 23 synthesizes one screen by playing back each one area from the I pictures of five GOP's which are continuous as shown in FIG. 26 (Mishima at column 34, lines 8-11).

Mishima, at column 34, lines 11-21 arguably teaches that in FIG. 26A, one screen portion of the playback picture is synthesized from the I pictures of nth to the n+4th GOP so that:

the I picture of the n+4th GOP is played back in area 1,

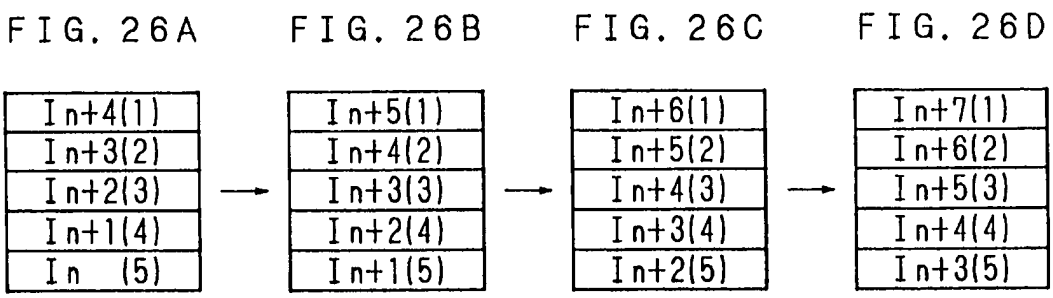
the I picture of the n+3th GOP is played back in area 2,

the I picture of the n+2th GOP is played back in area 3,

the I picture of the n+1th GOP is played back in area 4, and

the I picture of the nth GOP is played back in area 5.

Figure 26 of Mishima is provided hereinbelow.



However, Mishima ***fails*** to teach the presence of a *transition from a special playback to a normal playback*.

- ***Thus, Mishima fails to disclose, teach, or suggest a reproduction device wherein, at a transition from said high-speed playback to said normal playback, an acceleration in accordance with time required to read out and decode said main track data is calculated so as to perform deceleration at a deceleration corresponding to said calculated acceleration.***

- ***Moreover, Mishima fails to disclose, teach, or suggest a device wherein, at a transition from said high-speed playback to said normal playback, an acceleration in accordance with time required to read out and decode said main track data is calculated so as to perform deceleration at a deceleration corresponding to said calculated acceleration.***

- ***Additionally, Mishima fails to disclose, teach, or suggest a method further comprising:***

    - ***calculating an acceleration in accordance with time required to read out and decode said main track data, said acceleration being calculated at a transition from said high-speed playback to said normal playback; and***

    - ***performing deceleration at a deceleration corresponding to said calculated acceleration.***

Withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Official Notice

There is no concession as to the veracity of Official Notice, if taken in any Office Action.

An affidavit or document should be provided in support of any Official Notice taken. 37 CFR 1.104(d)(2), MPEP § 2144.03. See also, *Ex parte Natale*, 11 USPQ2d 1222, 1227-1228 (Bd. Pat. App. & Int. 1989)(failure to provide any objective evidence to support the challenged use of Official Notice constitutes clear and reversible error).

Extensions of time

Please treat any concurrent or future reply, requiring a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time.

Fees

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge all required fees, fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.17, or all required extension of time fees.

If any fee is required or any overpayment made, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee or credit the overpayment to Deposit Account # 18-0013.

Conclusion

This response is believed to be a complete response to the Office Action. Applicants reserve the right to set forth further arguments supporting the patentability of their claims, including the separate patentability of the dependent claims not explicitly addressed herein, in future papers.

For the foregoing reasons, all the claims now pending in the present application are allowable, and the present application is in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, favorable reexamination and reconsideration of the application in light of the remarks is courteously solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone Brian K. Dutton, Reg. No. 47,255, at 202-955-8753.

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Respectfully submitted,

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